Marathon Race----- 1898

The year of 1898 saw the revival of the Olympic games in Greece after 4000 years. These Englishmen at Mingo were very much interested in then, and they sent a challenge, to the boys at Marlinton, for a of 25 miles. The challenge was accepted. As the day approached and training went on, our athletes at Marlinton began with one accord to make excuses, for 25 miles and over two mountains, is a long run.

The Marlinton entries dwindled down to one, but Mingo was in no better shape, for they found that they could have but one entry. Dr. Norman R. Price, who has since won the rank of major in the army(world war), was the entry from Marlinton. S.E.L.Grews, a splendid gentleman, a son of an English colonel, was the other entry. A telephone line had recently been built into the county and people could keep tab on the race.

The race was to begin at the Randolph county line, and was to be run over what is now the Seneca Trail to Marlinton. It took place on September 24,1898. Andrew Price was the time-keeper.

The two boys raced to much at the start and made the first I2 miles in an hour, but at just 2 hrs. 59 minutes Grews came in winning. As he came toward the goal, he had the expression of a deer that had been run to death by hounds. He went home with death in his face, and in a few weeks he dropped dead.

Norman Price came in in three hours and I5 minutes. He told me that he felt none the worse for the race except tnat

his feet were blistered and very sore for about a week. He said that he had on leather shoes, as tennis shoes were unknown in Pocahontas at that time.

I interviewed Dr. Price on April 26, 1940 for this material, as the account given in the W.Va. Blue Book 1928 was not like I had always heard it. Dr. Norman said his brother Andrew just wrote that for a joke on him.